

GRAHAM, ALASTAIR. 1971. *British prosobranch and other operculate gastropod molluscs*. Synopses of the British Fauna, No. 2, New Series. Published for the Linnean Society of London by Academic Press, London and New York, 112 pp., 118 figs. \$4.00.

This little, rather expensive handbook follows the appearance of the monumental *British Prosobranch Molluscs* by Fretter and Graham (see Review by R. D. Turner, 1962, *Johnsonia*, vol. 4, p. 116) from which it draws its principal data. This paperbook is designed as a field manual for identification of common species and is provided with a protective heavy cover. Since certain of the species covered occur in the northwestern Atlantic Ocean, some American readers will be interested in the book.

After a general introductory section which deals with the characters of the shell as well as anatomical features of the animal, Professor Graham provides some useful remarks about collecting, preparing, and the naming of animals. A list of the prosobranchs treated in the text is provided as are keys (which require live or well preserved specimens) to the families, arranged by biotopes: marine, freshwater and land. In the *Systematic Part*, each family is introduced with descriptive remarks concerning the shell, the animal and where the common representative species are to be found.

The figures are good and many illustrate anatomical structures or living animals. The principal drawback to the book is its incompleteness. The British prosobranch fauna consists of over 200 species and only 120 of them are treated here, and of that number many are not illustrated. There are no figures of pomatiasids, aciculids, bithyniids or caecids, to mention a few omissions. Further, the figures are curiously numbered — some figures are not in sequence. The keys, though dichotomous, have no "back numbers" so one cannot find one's way back to previous couplets.

Although the illustrations are good and the diagnoses of each family interesting, its shortcomings do not recommend it except for introductory classroom and laboratory work.